



CITY COUNCIL

Administrative Oversight and Land Use Committee

**Monday, April 21, 2008
Meeting Report**

Attendance: S. Marmarou, M. Baez, J. Waltman

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 5:48 pm by S. Marmarou, Chair.

ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT

I. Interviews

Ruth Epler (reappointment – Park and Recreation Advisory Committee)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Epler was interested in continuing to serve on this Committee. Ms. Epler noted that she is a lifelong City resident. She grew up in East Reading and Pendora Park.

Mr. Marmarou noted the increased activity at the Park. Ms. Epler noted that this is not City recreation. Other groups are renting the facilities.

Mr. Waltman expressed his hope that this Committee broadens its scope. He noted his hope that agencies would pool their resources to reach out to youth. Ms. Epler noted the success of the after school program at Pendora. She noted the play equipment purchased by the Pendora Park Association and the plans to utilize the wading pool area of the park.

The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the reappointment of Ms. Epler to the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Jeff Darlington (reappointment – Board of Ethics)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Mr. Darlington was interested in continuing to work with this Board. Mr. Darlington noted his wish to give back to the community. He noted that the Board has been relatively quiet during his tenure. He noted his hope that the Board would meet to discuss the educational aspect of the Code of Ethics. Ms. Katzenmoyer will make these arrangements.

The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the reappointment of Mr. Darlington to the Board of Ethics.

Adam Wagonseller (appointment – Legislative Aide Committee)

Mr. Marmarou questioned how Mr. Wagonseller became aware of this Committee. Mr. Wagonseller noted that he was researching opportunities to volunteer on the City's website. He thought this would be a perfect match.

Mr. Waltman noted his belief that there can never be too many eyes reviewing potential legislation.

Ms. Baez noted Mr. Wagonseller's legislative experience.

The Administrative Oversight Committee agreed to recommend the appointment of Mr. Wagonseller to the Legislative Aide Committee.

LAND USE

I. Zoning Hearing Board

The Committee was joined by Phil Rabena, Chair, Zoning Hearing Board and Jatinder Khokhar. A letter from Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, Steve Price was distributed.

Mr. Waltman noted his agreement with the opinion of Attorney Price. He questioned a reasonable alternative. Mr. Rabena noted that a monthly memo from the Zoning Administrator with a list of what permits were issued and the relevant data would be informative. He noted this would allow the Board to spot trends and would give them the opportunity to ask questions. He also noted the need for additional staff in the Zoning office.

Mr. Marmarou questioned if the Board would be able to remain independent. Mr. Waltman questioned if one Board member could review the permits before they are issued and recuse themselves if the property was appealed to the Board. Mr. Rabena noted that this may cause quorum problems. He suggested a consultant. Mr. Khokhar noted that a consultant has been

used in the past with poor results. He suggested that neighborhood groups work with the Zoning office on problem properties.

Mr. Waltman noted that manpower is an issue but that is not likely to change. Mr. Rabena noted the current trend before the Board is home daycares. He noted that a monthly memo from the Zoning Administrator would assist in spotting other trends that could be reported to Council.

Mr. Waltman suggested beginning use of the monthly memo from the Zoning Administrator.

Mr. Khokhar noted the gaps in communication between Planning and Zoning. He is trying to remedy this situation.

Mr. Rabena noted that the Board is receiving more and better information now than from past administrators. He noted that much progress has been made.

The Administrative Oversight Committee adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk